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ENTOMOLOGY.

Habits of Prenolepis imparis Say.—The Winter Ant.—This ant rarely appears outside of its nest during the heat of the day, from 12 to 4 o'clock (although an occasional individual comes out in the middle of the day), while the little brown Lasius and black Formica are active at that time. It is one of the commonest ants in the Northern States, and is among the earliest to appear in the spring, occasionally appearing during mild winters, but becomes less active in summer, avoiding the heat.

The males and females take their marriage flight in April, as Say has recorded and as I have many times observed, the latest date at which I have found the winged female being May 9. It seems probable, therefore, that the males and females must pass the winter as pupæ or very advanced larvæ, although in nearly all our other ants they hibernate in a much earlier stage and the mature forms do not appear until much later in the season.

This ant bears much resemblance to some species of Lasius, but may at once be distinguished by the absence of a discoidal cell in the wings and the different form of the petiole of the abdomen. The genus Prenolepis resembles Tapinoma in having the scale of the petiole in the worker nearly concealed by the base of the abdomen, but the male and female may be distinguished by having no discoidal cell. The male and female of this species were described by Say under the old genus Formica and it has not since been identified. Roger in his "*Verzeichniss*" has queried whether it might not be a Lasius; it is, however, identical with the European type of Prenolepis, *P. nitens* Mayr, which its author has already recorded from North America. Roger, in 1859, described the female, and in 1862 the worker from European specimens under the name *Formica crepusculascens*, but at the latter date recognized the synonomy with *P. nitens.*

Tapinoma polita, described by Smith from a single worker found in Wales, has been placed by Roger as a synonym of *P. nitens*, but apparently in error, as Smith compared his species with *nitens* and pointed out differences in the antennæ, the scale, and the color of abdomen, which appear to be at least of specific value. *T. polita* was omitted in Mayr's *Index*. Mayr, in "Europ. Form," p. 52, note, considers *polita* a synonym of *nitens*. The synonymy is then :

PRENOLEPIS IMPARIS (Say).—*Formica imparis* Say, [? *Lasius*] Roger, Verzeichniss; *Prenolepis nitens* Mayr: *Prenolepis nitens* Roger; ♀ ☿ (1852), (Nec. *Tapinoma polita* Smith., see Roger and Mayr); *Formica crepusculascens* Roger, ♀ (1859).—WM. HAMPTON PATTON.

Description of the Female of Aphænogaster fulva Roger.—I have found the winged females of *Aphænogaster fulva* in the nest on the 15th of July and flying on July 17. This sex, hitherto undescribed, is closely like the worker, but is larger (length six to seven millimeters), and the metathoracic spines are blunt. The wings are hyaline, the stigma and nervures yellow: there is sometimes present *a second recurrent* vein (received by the second submarginal cell), and in one specimen before me there is a stub of a vein projecting into the first submarginal cell from the second submarginal cell.

WM. HAMPTON PATTON.

Spread of the Horn Fly.—This insect (*Hæmatobia serrata*), which apparently was introduced into the United States from Southern France in 1887, having been first noticed in New Jersey that year, has rapidly spread west, north and south. In a recent issue of the "Southern Live Stock Journal" Mr. H. E. Weed says it is now common in most of the Southern States east of the Mississippi River. It is abundant in Ohio, and has lately been migrating northward in New England. I recently visited a locality (Hartland) in Vermont, a few miles south of Hanover, N. H., where the insect is abundant and is causing considerable annoyance to dairymen. Spraying affected cattle with kerosene emulsion is proving the most practicable remedy.—C. M. W.

Chinch Bugs in New Hampshire.—The chinch bug (*Blissus leucopterus*) has been reported a number of times from New England. In Massachusetts specimens have been collected at Cambridge by Drs. Harris and Dimmock, and at Salem by Dr. Packard. In Maine they have been collected by Prof. H. L. Fernald and Dr. Packard. The latter has also taken specimens at the summit of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. The present season I have taken three specimens of this species at Hanover, N. H. Two of the short-winged form were taken April 23, under boards along a pasture fence, and one of the normal long-winged form was swept from grass early in June. These were the only specimens that occurred during the season's persistent collecting.—C. M. W.

Instinct of Ammophila affinis.—Dr. P. Marchal has made[1] many observations on the well-known habits of this sand-wasp, which, like other Sphegidæ, paralyzes its victims by stinging the ventral ganglia. He concludes that the habit is not wholly disinterested; that there are many gradations between the insect which kills and that which paralyzes its victims; that the procedure is by no means stereotyped, but variable in details; that the stinging of the ganglia is not necessary to secure paralysis, indeed the sting must, from the nature of the victim, be often effected between the ganglia. None the less, Dr. Marchal admits the wonder of the instinct, and suggests, as Mr. Darwin also did, how the inefficacy of stinging the sides of the victim might lead to the habit of stinging the median ventral line, and eventually the ganglia. Moreover, the median ventral line is often the most convenient and natural line of attack.—*Journal Royal Microscopical Society.*

Some Florida Spiders.—The following species of spiders were collected by me at Inverness, Citrus Co., Fla., during January and February, 1892:

Agalena nœvia Bosc.
Lathrodectes mactans Koch.
Gasteracantha cancer Hentz.
Nephila plumipes Koch.
Phidippus miniatus Peck.
Marptusa familiaris Hentz.
Lycosa, a large species.

I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Nathan Banks for the determinations.—CLARENCE M. WEED.

Recent Entomological Publications.—Prof. F. H. Hillman issues as Bulletin No. 17 of the Nevada Experiment Station a popular discussion of the woolly aphis of the apple (*Schizòneura lanigera*). "The extreme dry weather of the past spring and early summer has been very favorable for the development and longevity of the aphids, and as the result they are to be found in immense numbers. Those trees surrounded by shrubbery and frequently irrigated apparently are affected less than the others."

Prof. S. W. Williston has lately published[2] the second part of his "Diptera Braziliana." Eight new species of Conops are described.

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[1] Arch. Zool. Expér. et. Gen., x, 1892, pp. 23-36.

[2] Kansas University Quarterly, i.

In the same publication Mr. W. A. Snow publishes notes on a collection of Syrphidæ made in Colorado by Prof. F. H. Snow, including descriptions of a number of new species; and Prof. V. L. Kellogg prints some interesting notes on *Melitera dentata* Grote, the larvæ of which eat the soft inner tissue of the prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia missuriensis*).

Two discussions of the insects affecting stored grain have lately appeared. The first, by Mr. H. E. Weed, forms Bulletin No. 17 of the Mississippi Experiment Station, and the second, by Prof. E. W. Doran, forms Bulletin No. 16 of the Maryland Station.

Dr. J. B. Smith continues his contributions to a monograph of the Noctuidæ of Boreal America.[3] In the last instalment he revises the species of the Dicopinæ, and of the genera Cucullia, Xylomiges and Morrisonia.

Mr. H. E. Weed has lately prepared[4] a useful account of the insects affecting cabbage in the Southern States. The article is well illustrated, several of the figures being new.

Dr. C. V. Riley publishes in "Insect Life" (iv, pp. 358–378), a very interesting paper read before the Biological Society of Washington on Some Inter-relations of Plants and Insects. The pollination of Yucca, and the caprification of the fig are chiefly discussed.

Mr. Wm. Beutenmüller publishes[5] four articles concerning Lepidoptera. In two of them notes made by the late Henry Edwards and S. Lowell Elliot are incorporated.

Entomology at Rochester.—The Rochester meeting of the A. A. A. S. was one of unusual interest to entomologists, both from the number present and the interest shown in the papers presented. Most of the entomological papers were presented before the Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Club, while a few of especial interest were presented before the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science and Section F of the general Association.

The following papers were presented before the Association of Economic Entomologists, which held its meetings two days before the A. A. A. S.:

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[3] Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xv, pp. 33–86.

[4] Miss. Expt. Station, Bulletin No. 21.

[5] Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., iv, No. 1.

Address of President.—Owing to the ill-health of President Lintner, the First Vice-President, Mr. S. A. Forbes, presented the address, which consisted in a review of the more important economic literature of the year, together with a report of the progress being made with bacterial diseases as related to economic entomology.

Notes on *Hypoderus columbæ*, by D. S. Kellicott, noting the finding of this species while dissecting pigeons at the Ohio State University. This is the first record of the appearance of the species in this country.

Additional Notes of Ægeriidæ of Central Ohio, by D. S. Kellicott, giving further details of some of the species of this family not heretofore recorded in Mr. Kellicott's papers.

Two Serious Pear Pests, by M. V. Slingerland, describing the damage done in New York by the pear tree Psylla (*P. pyricola*) and the blister mite (*Phytopterus pyri*).

An Experiment Against Mosquitoes, by L. O. Howard, describing in detail an experiment undertaken to test the recommendation of the application of kerosene to the surface of small pools and stagnant water. Mr. Howard reported marked success with this remedy, and had no doubt but that if used properly many places which now swarm with this pest would be almost entirely free. Owing to the nature of the remedy it probably could not be used upon a large scale with success, but upon small ponds of stagnant water it would be very useful.

Notes on the Bean Weevil (*Bruchus obsoletus*) and *Drasteria erechta*, by M. V. Slingerland, giving the life history and manner of work of these species.

An Enemy of Timothy Grass, by L. O. Howard, describing the work of a homopterous species which had been noticed this season in Green County, New York.

Orthesia insignis as a Garden Pest, by T. D. A. Cockerell, was read by the Secretary, describing the work of this species in Jamaica.

Some Features of Joint Worm Attack, by F. M. Webster, an interesting paper showing the peculiarities of attack and an exhibit of specimens.

Food Habits of N. A. Membracidæ, by F. W. Goding, was read by the Secretary, giving a list of the food plants of the species of this family.

Notes of the Year in New Jersey, by J. B. Smith, giving mention of the principal species doing damage the present year, especially the rose chafer.

Notes from the Mississippi Station, by Howard Evarts Weed, giving account of new injurious species and other notes. Especial attention was called to the horn-fly and the fact brought out that this species is found most upon dark-colored animals, those of a light color being almost entirely free.

Notes on the Parsnip Web-worm (*Deprassaria heracliana*), by E. B. Southwick, an account of the damage and abundance of this species in New York.

Notes of the Year in Canada, by James Fletcher, root maggots and thrips being especially abundant, while cut-worms are not as abundant as usual.

An Australian Scymnus, by C. V. Riley, a species recently described from the Western States, which is an introduced Australian species.

Further Notes on Mollusks, by F. M. Webster, showing the relation of slugs to Aphides.

Officers elected: President, S. A. Forbes; First Vice-President, C. J. S. Bethune; Second Vice-President, J. B. Smith; Secretary, H. Garman.

The Entomological Club of the A. A. A. S. held its meetings during the general meetings of the Association at such times as did not interfere with the Section of Biology. President Schwartz presided. The Secretary, Mr. Marlatt, being unable to be present, Howard Evarts Weed was elected Secretary for the meeting. The following papers were presented:

President's Address by E. A. Schwarz, consisting of a review of the progress made in Coleoptera in recent years and the particular fields of research yet open in this line.

Insects Reared from Gall on *Muhlenbergia mexicana*, by F. M. Webster, giving an account of the species reared, over twelve in number.

A Cutaneous Disease of Cattle Caused by an Arachnoid, by C. W. Stiles, the disease being caused by a species of *Demodex*.

Galeruca xanthomelæna Polygoneutic at Washington, by C. V. Riley, showing that this species was normally two, and, at times three, brooded at Washington.

Galeruca xanthomelæna Monogoneutic at New Brunswick, N. J., by J. B. Smith, showing that the species is normally but single brooded at New Brunswick. In the discussion which these papers brought forth it was thought that the difference in habit between the species at Washington and New Brunswick was not so much in the difference in climatic conditions, as it was in acquired habits. Mr. Riley thought that specimens sent to New Brunswick from Washington would remain double brooded, while those sent to Washington from New Brunswick would there be single brooded.

The Inhabitants of a Fungus, by H. G. Hubbard, giving a list and account of many species found breeding in a fungus.

Mr. Webster introduced Dr. Edward Murphy of New Harmony, Ind., who gave an interesting account of the life of Thomas Say. Dr. Murphy was personally acquainted with Say for many years before the latter's death.

Notes on a Trip to Nipigon, by James Fletcher, giving an account of the principal species found in this region.

The Arthropoda of Liberia, by O. F. Cook, giving notes of the principal forms noticed there from December to June.

Honey Bee or House Fly, by Herbert Osborn thought that the arrangement of orders as to descent was not natural, but that the orders should be considered as on a level.

Life-History of *Gryllotalpa borealis*, by E. W. Doran, giving detailed descriptions of the different stages of growth.

The Osage Orange Pyralid, by Mary E. Murtfeldt, an account of the damage by a new species upon the Osage Orange.

A Borer in the Stem of the Red Current, by E. W. Claypole, an account of the damage done by *Janus flaviventris*.

The Insect Fauna of the Mississippi Bottoms, by Howard Evarts Weed, giving an account of the principal species collected in the bottom lands along the Mississippi river.

Do Termites Cultivate Fungi? by O. F. Cook, an account of observations in Liberia.

The Committee appointed at the Washington meeting to report upon the advisability of the preparation of a manual of Entomology, made a report of progress and was continued until another year.

The Committee on Entomological Congress in 1893 recommended that the officers of the Club be instructed to call an International meeting of Entomologists at the time and place of the meeting of the Club in 1893. The report was adopted.

Officers elected: President, C. J. S. Bethune; Vice-President, H. G. Hubbard; Secretary, C. L. Marlatt.

Before the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science the following were presented.

The Harlequin Cabbage-Bug, by Howard Evarts Weed, an account of the distribution and damage by this species and calling attention to a new and very effective remedy—that of planting a row of mustard through the center of a cabbage field.

The Destruction of Leaf Hoppers, by Herbert Osborn, an account of an experiment with the "hopper dozers" for grass insects.

Several papers of Entomological interest were presented before the Section of Biology, which are mentioned in our report of its proceedings.

As the biological section of the Association was divided into two sections, Botanical and Zoological, no doubt hereafter many papers which have heretofore been presented before the Entomological Club will be presented before the Zoological section.—HOWARD EVARTS WEED, *Agricultural College, Mississippi.*